

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

On page 2, paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated June 18, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-31, and 42-151 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner raised an issue regarding the enabling of "a plurality of lifting mechanisms" and "at least two side support brackets" in independent claims 1, 42, 71, 99, and 126 and the enabling of "at least one winch" in claim 126. Applicant has amended claims 1, 42, 71, 99, and 126 to clarify that the invention comprises at least four support brackets and a lifting mechanism that comprises a transmission shaft. As amended, the recitation of "at least one winch" in claim 126 is deemed proper. Also, Applicant has amended those claims (and dependent claims 3, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23, 44, 52, 55, 56, 61, 62, 73, 80, 83, 89, 90, 101, 116, 117, 128, 142, and 143) to show that the invention comprises at least two cross support beams.

On page 2, paragraph 2, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-31, and 42-151 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In paragraph 3, the Examiner stated that independent claims 1, 42, 71, 99, and 126 are indefinite because the "transmission shaft" and the "plurality of lifting mechanisms" are merely listed. As noted above, a lifting mechanism comprises a transmission shaft. Claims 1, 42, 71, 99, and 126 are also amended to clarify that the transmission shaft of the lifting mechanism attaches to the cross beams.

Also in paragraph 3, the Examiner stated that in claims 18, 57, 85, 112, and 126, the winch, cable, and pulleys are merely listed. Applicant has amended those claims to clarify that the cable threads through the winch(es) and through the pulley(s).

Also in the third paragraph of page 2 ending at the top of page 3, the Examiner stated that in claim 1, "a clamp" and "a surface" require clarification. Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that the lifting mechanism comprises a clamp and that the "surface" is the slate surface. Applicant also notes that claims 18, 21, 60, 61, 112, 115, and 141 are amended to recite "clamps or hooks" to coincide with claim 1 and the specification.

In the paragraph ending at the top of page 3, the Examiner stated that in claim 42, "upper surface of a frame" requires clarification. Applicant has amended claim 42 to clarify that the cabinet frame's surface is recited. Claim 9 has been similarly amended.

In the paragraph ending at the top of page 3, the Examiner stated that in claim 126 clarification is required to indicate whether the lifting mechanism is comprised of a winch or whether the winch is different from the lifting mechanism. Claim 126 is amended to clarify that the lifting mechanism comprises the winch(es), transmission shaft, etc.

In addition, Applicant has amended claim 137 to replace "cross beam" for "crossbeam", claims 20 and 59 to replace "are" with "comprise", and claims 22, 29-31, 61, 68-70, 83, 89, 96-98, 116, 123-125, 142, and 149-151 to add "at least one" where appropriate to coincide with the antecedent basis for each.

Finally, Applicant has added new, independent claim 152 and new, dependent claim 153. As originally drafted, independent claim 1 recited at least two support brackets rather than four. Applicant has amended claim 1 for clarification as noted above per the Examiner's suggestion. In amending claims 1, 42, 71, 99, and 126, Applicant wishes to clarify that two support brackets with one cross beam remains within the scope of the invention. Therefore, Applicant adds new claims 152 and 153 to retain the original and current scope of the invention.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been traversed. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Vidal A. Oaxaca, Reg. No.44,267
Direct line: (505) 998-1505

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PEACOCK, MYERS & ADAMS, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)
P.O. Box 26927
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-6927
Telephone: (505) 998-1500
Facsimile: (505) 243-2542

Customer No. 005179